

Oxford Democrat.

No. 36, Vol. 3, New Series.

Paris, Maine, Tuesday, January 16, 1844.

Old Series, No. 47, Vol. 11.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT,

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY BY

George W. Allen,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:—One Dollar and Fifty cents in advance. ADVERTISEMENTS inserted on reasonable terms. The Proprietor not being accountable for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement. A reasonable deduction will be made for cash in advance, and no credit will be given for a longer period than three months.

COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTERS on business must be Post-Paid to insure attention.

Book and Job Printing

Executed with neatness and dispatch.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Our system of annual elections will frequently bring into places of high responsibility, persons who have the benefit of no previous experience in the respective situations they are called upon to fill; and at times will devolve upon new and untried hands the most important political trusts.

In assuming the duties assigned me by the suffrages of the people, I cannot be unconscious of the force of this objection, nor unmindful of the deficiencies in myself which it necessarily implies.

There are, however, many advantages in the changes which our system of popular elections is calculated to produce. If the State is sometimes temporarily deprived of ability matured by long experience in some particular branch of the public service, a more certain reflection of the popular will, a deeper sense of immediate dependence upon the people they serve, and a nearer responsibility to the tribunal of the public on the part of those entrusted with political power, is created and secured.

Distrusting, therefore, my own ability, I yet enter upon the discharge of the responsible functions committed to me, with a confident reliance upon a disposition honestly and faithfully to discharge them; and with a firm persuasion, that in a resolute purpose of fidelity and zeal in the public service, will be found the safest guarantee for their proper performance.

Among the subjects which will claim your earliest consideration, that which involves the care of our State finances may be regarded as of paramount importance. The large amount of our State debt, and the necessity it creates for the imposition of a heavy tax, at a time when the pecuniary embarrassments of our fellow citizens render them the least able to bear it, has occasioned serious uneasiness and anxiety in the public mind, and the community now look with deep solicitude to the proper authorities of the State, for such a wise and frugal administration of its finances as shall lessen, as far as possible, the public burdens.

At the date of the last annual report of the Treasurer, the whole funded debt of the State amounted to about \$1,700,000, redeemable at different periods, and most of it bearing an interest of six per cent. Since that time there has been received from the General Government, under the provision of the late treaty with Great Britain, the sum of \$150,000; there has been allowed and paid to the Treasurer the further sum of \$207,000, being the whole amount appropriated by Congress in payment of the expenses of our civil power since the disputed territory; and of the claim for military services incurred in defending our northeastern frontier, \$76,000 has also been received. These items make an aggregate of \$433,000. There still remains due about \$200,000, some of which will require a new appropriation by Congress before it can be paid; a portion of this balance has been passed upon by the proper accounting officers, and will probably be paid during the present year.

The large amount paid into the Treasury by the Land Agent with the other ordinary sources of revenue, has enabled the Treasurer to meet all the liabilities of the Treasury during the past year, including the interest upon the public debt, and the whole sum received from the General Government may be available to the payment of so much of the principal.

In pursuance of the Resolve of 24th March, 1843, the sum of \$62,000, consisting chiefly of the six per cent stock of the State, has been redeemed by the Treasurer; but the terms of the Resolve having limited that officer to the par value of all the stock, the sudden and unexpected appreciation in the market value of all the safe public securities, has prevented the redemption of any further sums. The Treasurer's Report will therefore show, after meeting all the current expenses of the year, including interest upon the public debt, and the payment of \$62,000 of the principal the sum of \$88,000 remaining in the Treasury. Assuming it to be the deliberate sense of the Legislature and the people, that the debt of the State shall be extinguished as rapidly as possible, it is unfortunate that a somewhat greater latitude had not been allowed to the Treasurer by the Resolve referred to. A considerable portion of the large amount now in his hands was received early in the year, and had he been authorized to pay a small premium upon the State securities, nearly a year's interest would have been saved to the State. There will be some due in February and March of next year, a large amount of the six per cent stock, and in 1845 about \$125,000 of the five per cent, will be also payable. It is believed that these portions of the debt may be purchased at a trifling advance, and it would unquestionably be for the interest of the State to cancel these claims, even by the allowance of a small premium, rather than to incur the hazard of investing for so short a period the money on hand. I would therefore respectfully

suggest the expediency of so enlarging the authority of the Treasurer as to empower him to purchase upon the best terms, so much of the State stock as the amount of money now in the Treasury, together with that to be received from the General Government during the year, will enable him to procure.

Should the whole amount expected from the general Government be paid to the Treasurer during the present year, and none of it appropriated to other objects, as I trust it will not be, upwards of \$600,000 of the State debt may be extinguished. There will then remain the large sum of \$1,100,000 to be provided for in some other way. To meet the interest upon this sum and to defray the ordinary charges upon the Treasury under the present scale of expenditures, a heavy tax will still be necessary, and unless considerable reductions be made in the public expenses, or the means of the Treasury be enlarged by other sources of revenue, no diminution of the present tax can safely be contemplated.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement, that the whole amount of the State tax, together with all the other incidental receipts into the Treasury, have been but little above the sum required for the expenses of our State government, and the payment of the interest upon the public debt during the past year; and that even in the event of the reduction now contemplated in the principal of the debt, with the same rate of receipts and expenditures, but little would be left at the end of the present year towards its liquidation.

It has been proposed to diminish the calls upon the Treasury, by transferring the payments of cost in criminal prosecutions to the Treasuries of the several Counties in which they may accrue. The advantages of this change are fully set forth in the last annual report of the Treasurer, and the reasons there given in its favor seem to me conclusive as to its expediency and propriety.

Prior to the year 1833, the yearly tax paid by the Banks was applied to the use of the State, and formed a considerable item of income to the Treasury. It was at that time withdrawn from the general purposes of the Treasury, and converted into an annual School Fund, since which it has been distributed to the towns for the encouragement and support of our common Schools. Under the pressing exigencies of the two last years, it has been proposed to recall this sum for the uses of the Treasury; and its reception by the Treasurer would doubtless form an important and acceptable item in aid of his resources. The reluctance hitherto manifested by the Legislature to divert this fund from the laudable purpose for which it has been set apart will not probably be diminished by the improving condition of our finances; and however desirable it may be to increase the means of the Treasury, I do not feel at liberty, under present circumstances, to repeat the recommendation of my predecessor, to reconvert it to its former object.

This view of our finances, showing as it does the existence of a public debt, which though considerably diminished from last year, is still formidable in amount, with but little available resources for its liquidation, except the sums annually raised by direct taxation upon the people, cannot fail to admonish us of the necessity of a rigid and systematic frugality, in all the concerns of the pecuniary affairs of the State. To discharge the interest upon this debt, and to defray the ordinary expenses of the government, an onerous tax will be required. To meet those unavoidable liabilities—to preserve inviolate the public faith, and to maintain with honor and dignity every department of the government, the intelligent and patriotic citizens of our State will cheerfully contribute. But while submitting without complaint to these necessary exactions, they have a right to demand that the strictest economy should pervade every branch of the public service—that every expenditure should be narrowly scrutinized, and all unnecessary liabilities avoided.

It is believed by many that the ordinary charge of supporting our State government is much too large, and that a close examination of the different items of expenditure would demonstrate the practicability of a considerable reduction—that there are some offices which might be abolished without detriment to the public interest, and the compensation to others reduced, without injuries to the State. I respectfully invite the attention of the Legislature, in the hope that a careful and faithful scrutiny into the public expenditures, accompanied by an inflexible determination to cut off every useless charge upon the Treasury, may result in no inconsiderable saving of the public money.

In the above exposition of the condition of the Treasury, I have made no reference to the sum due from the general government; under the act of Congress, passed September 4th, 1841, appropriating the proceeds of the sales of the public lands for distribution among the States. This sum amounting to upwards of \$17,000, is now in the Treasury of the United States, and unless its reception be authorized by the Legislature, will remain to the benefit of the general government. In the annual messages communicated to the Legislature by my distinguished predecessor, the constitutionality and expediency of this law are elaborately examined, and the policy of the system proposed to be established, reprobated with just and well merited severity. The opinions thus expressed by the Executive were promptly responded to by the Legislature, and such is the universal condemnation it has received from the people, that but few intelligent men of any party are now found to approve it. In declining to participate in this alienation of national revenue, while such participation would seem to countenance or en-

courage a scheme so impolitic and unwise, the government of this State have but acted in accordance with the disinterested and patriotic spirits of the people. Looking, however, to decisive indications of the public will throughout the country, as given in the most authentic form in regard to the whole series of measures of which this formed a part, may not we be justified in considering the policy of distribution as fully repudiated and abandoned by both government and people? How far, if at all, this may justify a departure from the course heretofore adopted by the Government of this State in relation to this subject, the Legislature in the exercise of its deliberate judgment will decide.

In connection with these remarks upon the policy of the National Administration, it may not be proper to advert to the unequal operations of the laws now in force for collecting the revenue necessary to its support. The taxes thus levied upon the people, though indirect in their form, are nevertheless substantial and burdensome exactions upon their industry and resources, and when so framed as to bare with great severity upon one portion of the community than another, no more entitled to favour and protection, furnished good ground for remonstrance and complaint; and although the adjustment of these taxes be not within the sphere of your legislative duties, the important bearing they have upon the interests of those whom you represent, will commend the subject to your serious consideration. At the last revision of our tariff laws, the time seemed peculiarly propitious for an amicable and permanent settlement of this disturbing and complicated question; and observing it as I did with deep interest at the time, I could not but hope that those entertaining extreme opinions, upon both sides of this controverted subject, would see the necessity of arranging its details in the spirit of moderation and compromise—of so adjusting the duties upon foreign imports, that an adequate income would be secured to the government, and a reasonable incidental protection afforded to our domestic manufactures. Had the advocates of a protective policy then manifested proper forbearance, it is believed that a tariff would have been formed, which, while effecting its only legitimate purpose of securing a competent revenue, would also have given the manufacturing interest a sufficient advantage over foreign competition.

As the system is now arranged, I cannot but consider it as partial and unjust. Through its influence, one branch of the National industry may have been quickened into greater activity, and the capital invested in manufacturing establishments made to render larger profits; but the other, to us more material branches of Agriculture and Commerce, both equally important to the public prosperity, are still languishing and depressed, and without any near prospect of essential improvement. In behalf of these great national interests, little governmental interference has ever been solicited, but justice and good policy alike demand, that they should be crippled and disabled by no partial or unfriendly legislation, or their prosperity impeded by the adoption of a system, the burthens of which fall wholly upon them, while its benefits accrue exclusively to some more favoured pursuit. The insufficiency of the present tariff to afford the necessary revenue to the government, would now seem to be demonstrated, and in its revision by Congress, we may hope, that all the great industrial interests of the country will be deemed equally deserving attention and regard.

For a particular account of the operations of the Land Offices, I refer you to the report of the Agent, herewith transmitted. It is gratifying to perceive that the receipts into the Treasury from this department have considerably exceeded the estimate of the Treasurer; and I trust we may be justified in anticipating a steadily increasing revenue from its future operations. The sum of \$55,000 has been paid into the Treasury by the Land Agent; the amount expended upon roads under the Resolves of the last Legislature, together with the expenses of the commission to locate grants to the settlers upon the St. John and the cost of exploring and surveying upon the undivided lands, amounting in all to about \$10,000, have also been paid out of the funds realized in that department during the year.

The Legislature of last year, with a provident liberality, appropriated the sum of six thousand dollars for the purpose of locating and opening a road from Letter G, in the second range, upon the Aroostook River, directly to the Madawaska settlements upon the St. John; but as the expenditure of this sum depended upon the co-operation of the State of Massachusetts to a like extent, only one half of the appropriation has been used by the Agent. With the amount expended, the road has been located and so far made, as to render it practicable for a winter route. The importance of opening a direct communication with these settlements, now within our acknowledged limits, is fully set forth in the last annual report of the Land Agent; there are also other suggestions in that document, relative to the condition and wants of the residents in these settlements, well worthy the attention of the Legislature.

I would also invite your attention to the suggestions of the Land Agent, in regard to the road

communicating with Fort Kent, at the mouth of Fish river. This important, and in fact only avenue of our lands and settlements upon the upper St. John, is almost impassable except in winter, and as it traverses through the entire length of the public lands, a suitable appropriation for its improvement and repair, would be fully repaid by the increased value it would give to the public property.

The Report of the Adjutant General will advise you of the present condition of the militia. Considering a well organized and efficient militia as an indispensable feature in our scheme of self-government—as some times essential to the maintenance of public order, and always our principal reliance against foreign aggression, I lament to perceive the decreasing regard evinced by many of our citizens for its respectability and success. It is gratifying, however, to know that this indifference is not universal; and that in some sections of the State, vigorous exertions have recently been made to awaken a new and deeper interest in the prosperity of this useful and necessary institution. The earnest and repeated attempts of the State government to improve its condition, and to elevate its character, by Legislative enactments, have attested the concern it has constantly had for this important arm of our defence, and may be considered as an assurance that it will favor and encourage every well directed effort for its future improvement.

The Constitution of the United States has empowered the General Government to provide for a uniform organization and discipline of the Militia. Some years since, when our relations with a formidable foreign power were supposed to threaten a hostile collision, this duty was attempted by Congress; and by its direction, a plan was matured for organizing and instructing a portion of the militia of each State at the public expense. The outlines and most of the details of this plan were similar to those before recommended and which had received the sanction of many of the most enlightened and patriotic statesmen of the country. It unfortunately happened, that this plan was presented at a time, when the public mind was highly excited by an ardent political contest, and it was immediately seized upon by one of the parties, as a means of casting odium and reproach upon the other. Among the many topics discussed during that exciting period, none was more prominent than that denominated, in the party vocabulary of the day, the standing army; and such was the persevering, and I regret to say, successful clamor raised against it, that the project was abandoned, and has not since been revived. It is to be hoped that the attention of Congress will again be called to this subject, and that under happier auspices, a system will be adopted, which will give us the benefit of a powerful and efficient citizen militia, without imposing upon any class of our fellow-citizens any unnecessary or unequal burthen. In the meantime, in any efforts which the Legislature may think proper to make to renovate the condition of the militia of this State, I shall cheerfully co-operate.

The Reports of the Warden and Inspectors of the State Prison will be laid before you. For a particular statement of the condition and affairs of that establishment, I refer you to those documents.

I also transmit herewith the Reports of the Superintendent and Directors of the Hospital for Insane. That this philanthropic Institution is fulfilling the hopes of its patrons and founders, affording a suitable refuge to those of our unfortunate fellow beings to whom Providence, in its inscrutable wisdom, has denied the guidance of reason, and furnishing the means and appliances best adapted to their restoration, must be a source of unmingled satisfaction to every right minded and benevolent citizen. The judicious munificence which founded this humane institution, and the prudent and careful supervision constantly exercised over its management, reflect the highest honor upon all concerned in its origin and progress. That the Legislature will continue to cherish an establishment so well calculated, always to mitigate, and often to remove, one of the greatest calamities which can befall our race, I will not allow myself to doubt.

The attention of the Legislature has upon several occasions been called to the subject of submitting to the people a proposition to change the annual sessions from winter to summer. Believing that a considerable and growing disposition exists among our citizens to favor this change, I again bespeak for it the consideration of the Legislature.

Since the great crisis in the monetary affairs of the country, which occurred in the year 1837, the Banking capital of the State has undergone a great reduction; and the amount of capital now invested in these institutions is but little above that, which existed prior to the period, when so sudden and rapid augmentation was authorized by the Legislature. In the general convulsion of that time, some of those institutions were finally prostrated, and others having surrendered their charters, have wholly withdrawn from business. Those which now remain are believed to be in a solvent and healthy condition, and most of them have recovered from the losses sustained during the period to which I have referred. They are doing a limited and safe business, and, at the date of the last annual report of the Commissioners, had a very contracted circulation.

The losses, which have been sustained from time to time by the public, in consequence of the failure of some of these institutions, have justly excited the jealousy of the people, and induced the Legislature to consider whether some further safe-guards might not be established, which would more effectually protect the community against a recurrence of similar disasters. Several prop-

ositions have at different times been presented all of which seem to look to a gradual enlargement of the specie basis of the Banks, as best calculated to furnish a salutary corrective against excessive issues, and to afford the most constant and efficient check to the tendency to overbank, which those institutions have so often manifested. If, in addition to the restrictions and guards now established, further limitations should be deemed advisable, a considerable foresight would seem to point to their early adoption. The charters of all the Banks will expire in the year 1847, and it is proper, that if any considerable change is intended to be made in the charters then to be given, the institutions interested should be seasonably admonished of the terms upon which their continuance will depend.

In the wise and happy distribution of powers ordained by our complex political system, subjects of natural interest are exclusively confided to the management of the general government. Without the power to direct or control its operations, it is yet not unusual or improper for those entrusted with the local and particular concerns of the States, to express the opinions entertained by their constituents upon matters nearly affecting their welfare and happiness.

The Legislature of last year, having given its attention to several topics of national interest, upon all of which the sentiments of a majority of the people were truly reflected, it is not my purpose now to invite a renewed discussion; nor is it believed that any thing need be added to strengthen the convictions of our fellow citizens in favor of that system of policy, under which prior to the last change in its administration, the country was so generally prosperous and happy.

Upon the subject of a National Bank, the Legislature and people of this State have frequently spoken in the most decided and unequivocal terms. The opposition manifested to such an institution, in its days of prosperity and power, has lost nothing of its force by the melancholy developments of later times; and if it was then considered dangerous to the liberties and corrupting to the morals of the people, subsequent experience has proved it equally injurious to the business and currency of the country.

The general soundness of the local currencies, and the consequent equalization of the exchanges between the most distant points, now maintained without the agency of a National Bank, are conclusive proofs, that these desirable results may be effected by other and safer means; and an attempt, under present circumstances, to re-establish a similar institution, would seem to evince an utter disregard of the warnings of example and the teachings of experience.

The management of our national finances is always a subject of interest to the people. Their present condition is certainly unsatisfactory and alarming; an insufficient revenue—large expenditures and a rapidly increasing debt, are the discouraging conclusions which a perusal of the public documents compels us to adopt. In the absence of any extraordinary calls upon the National Treasury, these repeated and growing deficits in the means of the government, are well calculated to awaken inquiry and concern. If not seasonably arrested, we may look for the certain accumulation of a heavy public debt, to be left as an unwelcome legacy to our posterity. To provide an adequate and timely remedy for these continued deficiencies, should be the first care of the national Legislature; and none could be found so desirable, or more effectual, than an immediate and extensive reduction of the public expenses. In a general system of retrenchment and economy, vigorously applied to all the departments of the government; in limited appropriations, and diminished expenditures of the public money, should the proper measures of relief be now looked for; and the strong voice of public sentiment, throughout the country, most distinctly points to such an alternative, as furnishing the safest and speediest remedy for an impoverished Treasury.

In regard to the administration of our State finances, I have before adverted to the necessity of practicing a rigid and systematic economy—of reducing by every practicable means our annual expenditures, and of increasing by all proper expedients the resources of the Treasury. For the diligent and faithful performance of this duty, we shall all be held to a just and strict accountability by our common constituents, and in again urging upon your attention, its importance and necessity, I feel that I am but expressing the general sense of the people we represent. I would add, that in nothing could the Legislature give more acceptable proof of its desire to respond in this matter to the wishes of its constituents, than by making the present session as brief as may be consistent with a due and proper deliberation upon the subjects claiming its attention, and I most respectfully, but earnestly express the hope, that the time usually consumed, may be this year considerably abridged.

The complaints which have been made of the inconvenience and expense attending the operation of some parts of our judicial system, induced the Legislature of last year to enact a bill, which, had it become a law, would have effected important changes in the existing forms of legal proceedings. Being passed at a late stage of the session, sufficient time was not afforded, before the rising of the Legislature, for the deliberate examination of its provisions, which a measure of such consequence required from the Executive. The bill having failed to receive the sanction of the Governor, was spread before the people through the medium of the public papers, and ample time has since been

afforded for a full investigation of its merits and defects. That there are some faults in the present system is generally admitted; in seeking a remedy for these defects in an institution so closely interwoven with the habits and interests of the community, a wise discretion and an enlightened judgement are eminently called for.

Coming as you do from immediate communication with your constituents, among whom this measure has been a subject of considerable discussion, you will doubtless be prepared to express your matured opinions in regard to its expediency and propriety.

In closing this communication, I will take occasion to remark that however much a portion of our fellow citizens may have suffered during the past year by pecuniary distress of the times, there is in our present condition and future prospects much cause of mutual congratulation—high incitements to continued and vigorous efforts, and above all, manifold cause for gratitude and praise to that beneficent Being who has bestowed upon us the blessings we enjoy, and through whose goodness and mercy we have had so large a share of health and plenty prevailing among us. In commencing our public duties, let us invoke His aid and counsel, and humbly ask that in the discharge of our public functions, we may be enabled through His guidance and blessing to advance the interest and promote the happiness of the people.

H. J. ANDERSON.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Augusta, January 5, 1844.

LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6.

On motion of Mr. Frye.
Ordered, That the House concurring, all petitions presented to this Legislature, from and after the second day of February next except those relating to subjects of general and public legislation, shall be referred to the next Legislature, and that no further action shall be had thereon.

Mr. Frye said, that in presenting this order, he did not wish to be understood, as being actuated by a sentiment of mere complaisant compliance with the usage of former Legislatures; and without intending reflection upon any previous Legislature, he would say, that the almost uniform disregard of such orders when passed, had induced a belief among the people, that they were wholly illusory.

He believed it was well understood by every Senator at this board, that the people required and expect, that this Legislature would be governed by the principles of economy industry and perseverance; and that no more time would be spent for this session than was absolutely necessary for the proper transaction of such business as should come seasonably before the Legislature. He believed also that this expectation ought and could be realized. And call the Senators not to give their votes for the passage of the order, unless they intended to adhere to, and be governed by it, both in letter and spirit.

Mr. Atwood hoped that very little time would be occupied in promulgating professions of affection for a short session, but that every Senator would show his faith by his works.

The question was, on motion of Mr. Sawtelle, taken by yeas and nays, and every Senator voted in the affirmative.—Mr. Anderson of Lincoln, absent by indisposition.

On motion of Mr. Gracelon,
Ordered, That the House concurring, that the Messengers of each branch of this Legislature be directed to furnish the Reporters with one copy each of the printed Documents of this Legislature also forward to the several Editors of public papers in this State, one copy each of the same.

MONDAY JAN. 8.

On motion of Mr. Brooks.
Ordered, That Messrs. Brooks, Swan, Rose, Parcher, and Knowlton and such as the House may join, be a committee to take into consideration so much of the Governor's message, as relates to a change of the session of the Legislature, from winter to summer, and report thereon.

On motion of Mr. Atwood.
Ordered, That so much of the Governor's message, as relates to the transferring of the payment of cost in criminal prosecutions to the Treasurers of the several counties in which they may accrue, be referred to a joint select committee Messrs. Atwood, Chadwick and Deering on part of the Senate.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9.

Report of Resolves in relation to amendment of Constitution, and the adoption of the plurality system in elections, referred to Committee, consisting of the Messrs. French, Holmes and Townsend.
Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing an Act, entitled "An Act providing for the taxing of Rail Roads and Rail Road property in this State," passed March 17, 1843.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10.

Ordered, That so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the reception by Maine, of her share of the proceeds of the Public Land, due from the Government under the Act of Congress, passed April 4th, 1841, be referred to a joint select committee, Messrs. Parcher, Swan and Tallman, on part of the Senate.
The Joint Select Committee, appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of State, having attended to the duty assigned them, Report,
That they have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer, and find each item and the aggregate correct; and the monies of the Treasury safely deposited in the several Banks, as appeared by satisfactory vouchers; and, the Committee take great pleasure in bearing testimony to the apparent great care and fidelity with which the duties of the office have been discharged by the present incumbent during the past year. Which is respectfully submitted.

EBENEZER OTIS, Chairman.
At 12 M. the Senate went into Convention with the House, and having returned, on motion of Mr. Otis, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6.

A proposition for a convention of the two Houses, this day at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a Secretary of State, was received from the Senate and concurring in by the House.

Mr. Perkins of Augusta called up the order in relation to the State printing and binding; and moved the following as an amendment:
"And that said committee be directed to issue proposals for the said printing and binding, and to contract with such person or persons, as shall offer to do the same upon the most advantageous terms to the State; provided, that such persons as the committee shall contract with, furnish satisfactory bonds to the committee for the faithful performance of their contract."

Mr. Emery of Gorham, inquired if there was not upon the table an order from the Senate; and being informed by the Chair that there was, Mr. E. moved that the order be laid on the table, which prevailed.

Mr. Grant of Litchfield, presented the petition of D. S. Woodman, of Litchfield, for a divorce; which on motion of Mr. G. was referred to the select committee on the petition of Fayette Mace for the same object.

At 12 o'clock the Senate came in, and the two Houses went into convention, for the purpose of electing a Secretary of State. The committee raised to received, sort and count the votes, reported as follows:

Whole number of votes,	160
Necessary to a choice,	81
Phillip C. Johnson,	117
George W. Perkins,	38
Samuel P. Benson,	5

Whereupon Philip C. Johnson, Esq. was declared duly elected Secretary of State.

The Convention then separated.
Mr. Knowlton of Liberty, called up the motion made on Thursday and laid on the table, to reconsider the vote whereby the House on Wednesday last refused to print 500 copies of the (vetted) Town Court Bill.

A debate ensued. Messrs. Little of Portland, Woodman of Minot, Morrison of Livermore, Barnes of Portland, Ingersoll of Danville, Baker of Hallowell, Paine of Bangor, opposed the motion, and also expressed themselves against the bill itself.

Messrs. Knowlton of Liberty, Knowlton of Montville, Elliot of Frankfort, and Berry of Thomaston, advocated the motion and spoke in favor of the principle of the bill.
Mr. Jarvis of Surry advocated the motion on the ground of courtesy to the friends of the bill, while he declared himself the opponent of the bill itself.

The further consideration of the Bill was then on motion of Mr. Little, assigned to 11 o'clock on Thursday next.

MONDAY, JAN. 8.

Mr. Little of Portland, offered the following:
Ordered, that the Committee on Finance be directed to report a resolve or resolves, authorizing the Treasurer to receive any and every sum of money due from the United States to this State or credited by the U. States to this State, as the portion of the proceeds of the public lands, under the Distribution Act, belonging to this State.

Also, further authorizing the Treasurer, to convert the whole amount of money which has been or may be received into the Treasury in payment of the claims of this State against the U. States, under the provisions of the late treaty with Great Britain, and under the provision for the Distribution Act, in the purchase of the scrip of this State at the lowest market value at which the same can be purchased.

On motion of Mr. Emery,
The above order was amended, by directing the committee to inquire into the expediency &c, and as amended, passed.

Mr. Little then moved a reconsideration of the vote whereby the House concurred in the Senate in the adoption of the order limiting the time for the reception of petitions.

Mr. Mildram was opposed to the motion. He moved that the motion be laid on the table and Saturday next assigned for its further consideration. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Emery of Gorham,
Ordered, That the Committee on the Judiciary be directed to inquire into the expediency of altering or repealing the law relative to the appeals from the decisions of County Commissioners.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6.

On motion of Mr. Linscott, of Jay, ordered, that the committee on the judiciary be directed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the 17th Chapter of the Revised Statutes, as to leave it discretionary with Towns to instruct their Superintending School Committees in such a manner as they may think proper, with regard to visiting schools, unless called upon to settle difficulties.

On motion of Mr. Mildram, of Wells, ordered, that—consisting of one from each county, with such as the Senate may join be a committee to inquire into the expediency of providing a fixed yearly salary for County Commissioners, instead of the pay they now receive.

Mr. Knowlton of Montville, offered the following—Ordered, that so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the abolition of certain offices, and the reduction of salaries of others, be referred to a joint select committee, to consist of members with such as the Senate may join, requesting the Governor to communicate to the Legislature, what offices in his opinion may be abolished without detriment to the public service, and the salaries of what offices reduced.

The amendment was then rejected—yeas 24—nays 124.

Mr. Paine of Bangor was opposed to the order, as the subject had been fully examined last year, without finding any opportunity for retrenchment.

Mr. Barnes of Portland had voted against the amendment for the reasons stated by the gentleman from Saco. He also opposed the order, on the ground of impossibility of one committee properly examining the whole subject.

Mr. Knowlton of Liberty spoke in favor of the order, and the necessity of retrenchment.

The order then passed, 84 to 22.

The Speaker appointed as this Committee, Messrs. Knowlton of Montville, Little, Jarvis, Bradbury, Paine of Bangor, Fox and Morrill. Mr. Jarvis was excused, and Mr. Hubbard appointed in his stead. Mr. Little was also excused, and the chair appointed Mr. Baker of Hallowell, who also asked to be excused. Mr. Perkins of Au-

gusta hoped the House would excuse the gentleman, as he was a man of tender feelings, and could not resist the importunities of the officeholders who were round among the whig members imploring them to prevent their heads being cut off.

Mr. Jarvis hoped the gentleman from Hallowell would be excused, and the gentleman from Augusta appointed in his stead. The latter gentleman could lay claim to no such feelings, but craves the opportunity to put in the knife.

The gentleman's propensity for this sort of work, naturally originally strong, had derived additional vigor from recent occurrences. To give him an opportunity to gratify it, to his heart's content, he hoped the gentleman would be appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Chair then appointed Mr. Perkins as one of the Committee, in place of Mr. Baker.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10.

On motion of Mr. Buxton of North Yarmouth, Ordered, That the Committee which have under consideration the subject of a new Valuation, report the names of the towns not having complied with the law for returning their valuations; and the best manner for obtaining such valuations as may not have been returned.

Mr. Hutchings of Penobscot, moved a reconsideration of the vote whereby the House, on yesterday, passed the order, of Mr. Little, in relation to the reception of moneys under the Treaty and the Distribution Act.

Mr. Little raised a question of order, viz:—the vote having been once reconsidered, it could not be moved again.

The Speaker decided that the motion was in order. The motion was not to reconsider a vote which had once been reconsidered, but the vote of yesterday.

Mr. Little said, that under such a construction, the motion to reconsider could be made *ad infinitum*. Mr. L. argued the point at length; and in conclusion appealed from the decision of the Speaker.

Mr. Allen contended that no danger was to be apprehended from such a construction, because the rule required that the motion should be made by a member who had voted in the majority.

Messrs. Woodman of Minot, Baker of Hallowell and Paine of Bangor, each contended that the decision of the Chair was erroneous. Mr. Barnes of Portland, inquired whether the Order was not already in the possession of the Finance Committee, and being informed that it was, he further stated they had commenced the consideration of the subject.

Mr. Jarvis spoke in favor of the decision of the Chair, and Mr. Little replied.

A motion was made to lay the appeal on the table, which was lost, 52 to 70.

The yeas and nays having been ordered on motion of Mr. Little, the question "shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?" was put and carried—yeas 87, nays 41.

Mr. Little moved that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table till half past 12 this day.

Ordered, That the committee on the Judiciary take into consideration the expediency of so far amending the laws respecting Rail Road corporations, that corporations shall be liable for damage done to neat cattle on their roads.

Ordered, That the committee on the Judiciary inquire into the expediency of allowing any person to become an inholder or common vicar, without a license, provided such person shall not retail spirituous liquors.

At 12 o'clock the houses went into convention for the election of a State Treasurer, and the following was the result of the balloting—

Whole number of votes,	159
Necessary to a choice,	80
James White,	115
Sanford Kingsbery,	44
Blanks,	2

And thereupon James White was declared duly elected Treasurer of State. The Convention then separated.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 2, 1844.

In the House, after the reference of some unimportant business, Mr. C. J. Ingersoll moved to go into Committee of the Whole on General Jackson's fine. A division being demanded, the motion prevailed.

The question was on the proposed substitute of Mr. Stevens, providing that no blame shall be cast upon Judge Hall.

Mr. Barnard having the floor, made a long dry speech against the original bill.

Mr. Dawson, of Louisiana, followed, in favor of the bill.

Mr. Kennedy, of Indiana, next took the floor, and kept the House in almost constant laughter. He thought the Treasury of the country had been too long cankered by the money thus iniquitously withheld from Gen. Jackson. Referring to the judicial objections of Mr. Barnard, he said it was a too common practice for members to skulk behind the judiciary; but he would take the liberty of saying that he believed the judiciary to be as corrupt as some other branches of the Government. He said he expressed his views as a blacksmith, for he had been a blacksmith.

He looked at the subject as a blacksmith. Another gentleman, not a blacksmith but a lawyer, had also expressed his views as to the judiciary in the same style, so that he, Mr. K. was not alone. After further remarks, he expressed his belief that there were some members of the House, who would never forgive General Jackson for having "licked" the British. There were some people who did not like to have their friends whipped. Speaking of Judge Hall and his doings, Mr. K. said that Gen. Jackson ought to have strung him up on the first gibbet, as a traitor. He close by a high eulogium on General Jackson, and observed that perhaps some members might deem his remarks offensive. If it were so he could not help it. If the shoe pinched, why it must, that was all.

Mr. Grider, of Kentucky, followed against the bill. He was succeeded by Mr. Dean on the other side.

Mr. Peyton, of Tennessee, also spoke some time against the bill, and the committee rose—no other business of importance was transacted.

CONDITION OF THE TREASURY.

We have received the report of the State Treasurer, and are happy to say that it presents the pecuniary resources of the State in a most flattering condition. The arrangement of the report is such as to present our liability and means plainly and intelligibly to every mind, and is creditable to the business character of our excellent and faithful Treasurer. The following is a synopsis:

Balance of cash in the Treasury, Dec. 31, 1842, \$7,967 92
Amount received during the year 1843, 781,584 50
789,552 42

\$433,721, 52 of this is on account of the N. E. Boundary.

There has been paid out by the Treasurer, during the past year, \$350,930, 54; leaving a balance of \$389,595, 88.

The estimated expenditures for the present year are \$287,020 25, and the estimated receipts, including the balance on hand, \$672,007, 47.

The Treasurer raises the question—"What should be done with the surplus?" Thus does he answer the question:

The accruing interest on the public debt for 1844, is \$93,771 90, a sum nearly equal to the cost of administering the government. This must be provided for, or the plighted faith of the State will be tarnished. To diminish this charge, the debt on which it accrues must be paid; debt, having its origin in measures, which if their consequences had been foreseen, would never have been sanctioned.

There is now in the Treasury a balance to meet and cancel a portion of this debt, and it should be set apart and pledged for that purpose. A thought of otherwise appropriating it, should not be for a moment entertained. Although it may be necessary to keep it for a time, and a sacrifice of interest may be inevitable, that is not an objection to weigh against the danger which would attend an attempt to invest in securities, and the risk of recalling it again when wanted for use. Having it at all times in readiness, public creditors may be induced to surrender their certificates and receive payment. In any event, \$207,146 12 of the debt will become due in 1845, principally in February and March, and on the first day of April, which can then be paid and cancelled. That, with such portion of the debt, as can probably be paid in anticipation of the time of its maturity, will absorb the present balance and any other funds of the Treasury, that may be spared to be so applied.

Who of the voters and tax payers of Maine does not respond an earnest Amen to this recommendation? With the Treasurer, the voice of the people, from Aroostook to Cumberland, says—*"Pay the State debt!"* A thought of otherwise appropriating it [the surplus] should not be for a moment entertained.—Portland American.

STATE OF THE MAINE BANKS.

The abstract of the condition of the banks of Maine—which we received from the Secretary of State a day or two since—shows those institutions to be in a safe condition. The following recapitulation will give a bird's-eye view:

To Capital Stock paid in,	2,925,000 00
Bills in circulation,	1,147,625 00
Net profits on hand,	109,013 77
Balances due other Banks,	188,103 88
Cash deposited, &c. not bearing int.,	639,088 11
Cash deposited bearing interest,	90,715 03

Total amount due from the Banks, \$5,943,610 39

By Gold, Silver, &c. in Banks,	158,591 93
Real Estate,	258,647 76
Bills of Banks in this State,	87,610 50
Bills of Banks elsewhere,	31,199 41
Balances due from other Banks,	560,954 44
Due to the Banks excepting balances,	3,946,613 35

Total amt of resources of the Banks, \$5,043,611 39

Of the dividends, &c. &c. we have the following summary presented:

Amount of last semi-annual Dividend,	86,739 00
Amount of reserved profits,	64,257 53
Debits due and considered as doubtful,	22,432 00
Am't of Bills in circulation under \$5,	173,745 00
Am't due fr. Pres. & Directors as principals,	242,406 89
Am't due fr. Pres. & Directors as sureties,	212,611 20
Am't due fr. Stockholders as principals,	256,730 03

Since 1842 the following Banks have surrendered their charters, viz: St. Croix, Maine, and Bank of Portland.—Portland American.

VERY IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The New York True Sun has advices from Washington to the following effect. We give the matter as a rumor, not knowing the precise state of affairs—"It has been stated in the Washington papers, that Gen. Waddy Thompson, our Minister to Mexico, has resigned his place, after having negotiated a very favorable treaty between the two countries.

We have received very late advices from Washington, from a source entitled to credit, and one which by association would be very likely to know what is going on, that a rumor prevails at the seat of government, as yet in circulation only among the high dignitaries there, that no Treaty has been negotiated with Mexico.

On the contrary, Gen. Thompson has been dismissed by Santa Anna, and his passport has been handed him!! That the rumors afloat as to Gen. Thompson's resignation and future intentions, are merely disguises to conceal for a few days the fact of an approaching rupture with Mexico. Deep anxiety is manifest at the White House, and among the leading Senators, at the present posture of affairs. Although we will admit we may say to our readers, that they must not be surprised to hear that our whole navy will be ordered to the Gulf.

A journey from Boston to Baltimore and back by stage formerly cost \$110, and required fifteen days hard travel. It now requires three days and cost \$37 at farthest, though less will answer, saving fully twelve days and \$70. Go it steam!

The Americans are followers of us in every thing.—London Age.

We must confess, Mr. Age, that our soldiers followed you in the last war.—Pretence

The U. S. SUPREME COURT.—A correspondent of the New York Express, has furnished the following statement, giving the names and time of appointment of all judges of the Supreme Court:

Residence.	Appointed.
Rogers B. Taney, Baltimore, Md. C. J.,	1836
Joseph Story, Cambridge, Mass. Asso. J.,	1811
Smith Thompson, New York,	1823
John McLean, Cincinnati, Ohio,	1829
Henry Baldwin, Meadville, Pa.,	1830
James M. Wayne, Savannah, Ga.,	1835
John McKinley, Florence, Ala.,	1837
John Catron, Nashville, Tenn.,	1837
Peter V. Daniel, Richmond, Va.,	1841

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, JANUARY 10, 1844.

"The great popular party is already rallied almost en masse around the banner which is leading the party to its final triumph. The few who still fly will soon be rallied under its ample folds. On that bank," is inscribed: *FLIER TRADERS; LOW PRICES; NO LEVY; EXT. RATION TRADERS; ECONOMY; RETRENCHMENT; AND STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTION.* Victory in such a cause will be great and glorious; and if its principles be faithfully and firmly adhered to, after it is achieved, much will it redound to the honor of those by whom it will have been won; and long will it perpetuate the liberty and prosperity of the country."—California.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

JOHN C. CALHOUN,

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

This Message was read before the Senate and House on Friday, 6th inst. We publish it to day. We prepared ourselves to see a calm, sound, comprehensive and business-like document when we saw Gov. Anderson's Message. We have not been disappointed. It is just the thing. It gives a bird's-eye view of all the matters of State in a manner most direct and acceptable.

The finances of the State being of the first importance are the first topics presented for consideration. The funded debt of this State is found to be but about \$1,700,000, and as soon as the amount received from the General Government can be appropriated to its liquidation it will not exceed \$1,000,000. This is but a small sum for a State to be in debt. It is but a mere trifle when compared to the resources of the State or to the indebtedness of many other States.

The Governor thinks, in view of this state of our finances, that every expenditure should be diminished to the lowest possible amount, and that a system of rigid economy should be practised in every Department of the Government. This is a most judicious recommendation, and one, too, which will meet a hearty response from the people. We hope it will not be uttered in vain.—All parties have talked long enough about "Retrenchment," "Reform," "rigid economy," &c. It can be accomplished, and we to him who does not lend a helping hand.

He adverts next to the amount of money due this State by the Distribution Act. He looks upon the Law and policy of Distribution as condemned by reason and the voice of the people, and thinks we need not apprehend anything of the kind again. He then says, "How far, if at all, this view may justify a departure from the course heretofore adopted by the Government of this State in relation to this subject, the Legislature in the exercise of its deliberative judgment will decide." The Legislature rejected this \$47,000 of Distribution money last winter. The above remark seems to indicate that there may be a justifiable "departure" from the course pursued last winter. Therefore, we may suppose the money will be received. Nons Verorons.

The operation of the Tariff, an account of the Land Office, the Militia, and other topics are then touched upon in an appropriate manner. The Reports of the Warden and Inspectors of the State Prison are merely alluded to. We hope there will be something done about the State Prison. If half we hear about the unhealthy, cold and damp cells for the convicts, be true, they are unfit for the lodging places of human beings. The disgrace consequent upon such a state of things should be wiped off. Several other things of vital importance to the State are presented to the Legislature for their consideration. Finally, the Message speaks for itself. It needs no eulogium from us. It is plain, unpretending, straight-forward, and we repeat that its style is clear, concise and free from obscurity or ambiguity. That this Message of Gov. Anderson will be received by the people, yes, the whole people, with approbation we cannot for a moment doubt. Whiggery must die an easy death after such a Message; for the only food on which it lives and thrives—that of fault-finding, is most effectually, though undesignedly, thrown beyond its reach.

RETURN OF SURRY.

The Committee on gubernatorial votes admitted the return from Surry and counted the votes with the rest. The return was made out according to law with a single exception. The Selectmen neglected to sign the return as the Selectmen of Surry; thus, for instance, James L. Lucius C., Selectmen of

The Whigs objected to this return solely for the above reason. The Clerk's certificate on the outside showed that there could be no doubt about the return being from Surry. Yet the Whigs said that it should not be admitted.

Statute regulations should be observed in all cases, but not in such a manner as to defeat the very objects of law. The object of the law is to secure elections as well as returns from fraud and deception. But if every deviation from the prescribed course should be construed according to the letter of the Statute, without regard to its object and intention, much trouble, vexation and injustice would often be the consequence.

If there had been any reasonable doubt that the return in question was from Surry—that it was signed by the real Town Clerk and Selectmen—that it was correct, &c., then it would have been proper to have done as the Whigs desired, rejected the return. No Whig pretended that this was the case. No Whig pretended to doubt the correctness, or truth of the return; but they wished to reject the vote merely because the Selectmen as such had not signed Surry after their names. Thanks to a Democratic House, the votes of Surry were received and counted; and as right would have it, Coon sophistry defeated.

The State Debt of Pennsylvania amounts to \$39,084,000. The interest on this sum in one year is double the whole debt of this State.

democratic
ment
It is
ness of
it is pa
much
annual
declam
There
"Or"
not no
erence
State d
the leg
ery year
of the
debt is
ism, bu
lieve it
Gov
ented to
this pa
is a
a consi
embrac
it conta
commen
In rot
the
urges th
reducin
careful
cur in th
annual
criminal
stead of
derived
Treasur
omended
by the l
the dimi
His re
Hospital
fant
The c
by the G
The
Courts, i
immedi
rectly ad
In con
of the M
rebukes
down the
a dimini
enrolled
whether a
In refe
Governor
Republic
be looked
their auth
popular o
ernment
briefly as
Bank, of
lands, an
ties shou
convinced
In refer
subject to
the Gover
the object
of giving
arise, it i
impractic
other obje
they are e
deliberate
As a wh
mand a wi
in the abil
Gen. Ja
representa
tice. A vo
imposed u
ed on the
annals of
to concu
riotism on
Years, 158.
Texas.
its session
been publi
the United
press the m
co against
ing. He re
by Statute
whether for
funds plac
tingency
Colored
colored, b
since arres
A petition
forth his fr
him liberty.
been advert
be a slave, c
to pay his p
quires. Thi
Constitution
these truths
free and eq
among which
ness." How
State Con
to this Conve
on Wednesd
the National
C. Shaw, O
selected. Th
persecuted
been by the
Buren and R
for the Presi
occasion were
Required
der of an illeg
Brunswick, an

No. 37,

OXFORD

PUBLISHED

EDITED

TRANS.—OF
ADVERTISEMENT
beyond the am
A reasonable d
vance, and no c
than three mont
COMMUNICAT
be Post-Paid

Execut

[W]

Her truth, he
The maiden lie
The mother
Forms, feather

An apology
love, will be se
We believe
"A mother's
A father's a
And here let us
this article is
ter. There an
Woman is the
of her creator
the very breath
and ardent affi
It is the na
strongly than
cise the best a
Her love for
but one that i
and set. Man
spect, and well
She is at the
movement, an
versity. O y

"The heart,
But as tru
As the sun-
The same
In whatever
the female ca
the character

"Sister, a
How de
How gra
Is mem
If we find
more true tha
—far more w
orphan child,
"Not she w
Not she den
The while s
Last at his
In the langu
add the follow

"It is one
indeed, our
of our flesh
"What sha
"Passions, wh
"The Heaven
that on this
celestial pen
Swain spike
purest mable

"Love?
It is in h
Where h
Where th
All taste
To come
Above, th
Around,
And if there's

"Yes, this
The heart
The best
Of all lif
Oh! wh
To breat
While sin
And win
And all was

"Let us not
not even tou
to all—dwell
ened by its
we shall your
your heart be
yet all the b
tasks and res

Every gae
Foundation o
I speak only
dation, and
he drinks w
Whatever
not, unless
into vice an

"I know
But I kno
She was i
allure us ou
many instan
edy to chan

How she
ful eyes wi
she cares for
rows—how
hand, and h
grateful her
or sick with
delight—not
verity she
trouble of m